

The Dover Society

The minutes of the 163rd meeting of the Excessive Committee which was held on Thursday 13 February 2003 in the Parish Room of St Paul's Church Dover.

Present:

Mr & Mrs Cope: Mrs L Gordon: Dr G Hale: Dr. T. Lane: Mr D. Leach: Mr M. McFarnell: Mr W. Naylor: Mr T. Sutton (Chairman): Capt. M. Weston: Mr J. Woolford:

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mrs M. Lilley: Mrs J. Liggett. Mr H. Gordon.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 162nd meeting which was held on 9 January 2003 had been circulated and were agreed.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) Mr Leach reported that he had made inquiries about the purchase of binders for the New Letter and had a quote of £3.34 each based on the purchase of 100 items. It was agreed that the Treasurer would make inquiries as to the demand from the members.
- b) Mr Woolford reported that the AGM of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies would take place on May 10th in Faversham.
- c) Mr Cope reported that he had not yet been able to complete his inquiries in respect of the tax situation for the donation to country primary school.

Chairman:

Mr Sutton reported that he had sent a letter of thanks to Les Holyer and his team for the excellent talk and video show they gave at the last open meeting.

As a journalist Mr Sutton said that he had attended a tour of the Dover Discovery Centre and saw the facilities Kent County Council will be providing over the next twelve months. The UK on-line centre is set to open any day now, with other facilities following including the children's nursery, art studio, adult education centre (at Easter), public library (Official opening planned for September 9th), cafe-restaurant, and eventually a theatre with seating for 120. Any volunteers with IT skills willing to offer their services, contact Steve Inett at the on-line centre.

The Dover Society has been invited by English Heritage to take part in this year's Heritage Open day (12-15 September). Should we try to spearhead any Dover initiatives e.g. persuading the DDC to open the Grand Shaft (Free admission) and possibly organise a town walk (on our blue plaque trail). After some discussion it was decided that in addition to the Chairman's suggestions we should arrange for the Cow gate cemetery and the Unitarian Church to be open on '14 September.

With reference to the Dover/Calais twinning protocol -we haven't been asked but do we wish to play a part in heritage and or environment projects? To be considered when asked.

The Secretary:

Mr Naylor pointed out that as we were approaching the end of our year, new bookings for the current meeting room would be required and sought directions as to whether to continue with the present arrangement. After some discussion it was agreed that we should.

A further point was that any committee member not wishing to stand for the next year should inform the Secretary before the AGM.

The Treasurer:

Capt. Weston pointed out that £42 in subs - £32 for the current year and £10 for year 2004/5 includes a £4 a donation- had been paid

Sales of the Newsletter at the January meeting brought in £9.50 but £29.37 had been paid out in postage etc.

£22.99 had been paid to the Auditor for the Society's accounts for the year 2002/2.

The Christmas Feast gross profit came to £149.61 however it was agreed that the cost of the meal be refunded to a member who had to drop out due to exceptional circumstance at the last minute. The surplus on the Christmas Feast is therefore £135.61

The January meeting also produced a surplus -£24.00. Thanks to a good turn out the raffle realised £83.

Bookings for the Wine&Wisdom currently stand at 11 tables.

Membership Secretary

Mrs Cope said that there were four new members this month. They are:- Mr & Mrs Coda of Buckland Ave: Mrs Dorion Devalle of Leeds: Mrs P. Hackney of St Mary's Lodge. The total number of members is now 418.

Projects:

Mr Cope reported that 11 members turned up at the Cowgate on Feb.6th and continued the general clearance burning all the cuttings etc.

He went on to say that the survey of the river Dour had been completed but the written report was not yet to hand. Informal talks with the Surveyor indicated that difficulty could be expected from the land owners bordering the river banks.

Dr Lane said that he had been asked to co-operate with people in Calais in the production of a book about ship wrecks on both sides of the Channel.

Planning & Local Govt.

Mr Woolford distributed the minutes of the Planning S/C. He pointed out that he had sent a letter for publication in the Dover Mercury drawing attention to the poor state of some of the buildings in the town centre. No reply to date.

Mr Woolford asked about the price of the question sheets at the next open meeting. Agreed at £1.50

Objections have been lodged to the planning application to demolish Webbs Hotel.

The Editor:

Mrs Lilley sent her apologies and said that a £500 had been promised from Pfizer's for the Newsletter. Articles for the Spring issue would be welcomed closing date 13.02.03, No volunteers for the new Editor yet.

Publications:

Mr Leach reported that 400 slides have now been completed.

Any Other Business:

Dover Town Management is seeking support for the Christmas Lights. Will be kept in mind.

Date of next meeting: 13 March 2003

There being no Further Business the meeting closed at 21.07 hrs